

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Audrey Boyd  
July 10, 2000  
DATE

Attorney Docket No. P50743

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alfred M. Del Vecchio 10 July 2000  
Serial No.: 09/208,140 Group Art Unit: 1645  
Filed: December 9, 1998 Examiner: R. Zeman  
For: Hepatitis C Virus NS5B Truncated Protein and Methods Thereof to Identify  
Antiviral Compounds

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

07/25/2000 TGRAY1 00000001 152570 09208140 AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE  
01 FC:102 Sir: 78.00 CH

This is a response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2000, for the above-identified case. Please enter the following amendment. In view of the following amendments and argument, Applicant believes the case is now allowable.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 14 and 15, and add the following claims 19 and 20.

*Subst*  
Claim 19. A method of identifying compounds which inhibit or which activate the HCV NS5B polypeptide, comprising:

- a*
- (a) contacting a composition comprising the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 with a candidate compound to be screened under conditions to permit interaction between said compound and the polypeptide; and
  - (b) determining whether said compound activates or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.
- A*